

Amendments to the Drawings:

No amendments are made to the Drawings herein.

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-6, 22 and 27 are amended. Claims 14-21 were previously cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-13 and 22-27 remain pending. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

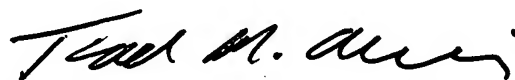
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 7-13. Claims 1-6 and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mitchell (U.S. Patent No. 5,661,099) and/or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Rice (U.S. Patent No. 5,569,515). Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider these rejections in view of the above Amendments and the below Remarks.

In allowing Claims 7-13 in the Office Action mailed October 30, 2004, the Examiner stated that "The prior art uncovered so far fails to teach the presence of a piece of liner material disposed on a portion adjacent to the inner end of the coil strip and a portion having no liner material thereon". Applicant has amended all rejected claims so as to require this arrangement -- namely, that a backing layer is applied only to stamps located in an area adjacent to the inner end of the coil.

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now allowable for reasons similar to those expressed by the examiner in connection with the allowance of Claims 7-13. If the Examiner believes that additional and/or replacement language would be appropriate, Applicant would be amenable to such, and respectfully asks the Examiner to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance of the case.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-13 and 22-27, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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